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Medical Department
hosts road race
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SPORTS & RECREATION

JULY 1, 2010

Coast Guard downs 224 MI 13-3 in Hunter softball action



Nancy Gould, Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs

Petty Officer First Class Adam Moorehouse drives the ball into the left field gap for a double for the Coast Guard as they battled the 224 Military Intelligence Battalion in Hunter intramural softball action, June 24. The Coast Guard defeated 224th MI, 13-3.

Sharita Wilkinson
*Hunter Army Airfield
Public Affairs*

The U. S. Coast Guard's Air Station Savannah broke open a closed game by scoring nine runs in the fourth inning to soundly defeat the 224 Military Intelligence Battalion 13-3 in the softball action at Hunter Army Airfield's Squires Sports Complex, June 24.

Leading 2-1 entering the bottom of the fourth inning, the Coast Guard erupted seven hits and exploited three 224 MI Bn. errors for nine runs and never looked back. Ryan Otte delivered the big blow with a two-run triple.

"We played well," said Charlie Fowler, Coast Guard coach. "We used great team work and syn-

ergy tonight. If we continue to play like we have, we'll have a real good shot a winning the upcoming tournament."

After starting the season 4-0, 224 MI Bn. has dropped in the standings, having gone 8-7 since.

"Our poor play on defense tonight and our having lost our most valuable player, Capt. James Desaulniers, to an injury really hurt us," said Greg Mims, 224 MI coach.

Adam Morehouse contributed three hits to the Coast Guard attack.

The victory advances the Coast Guard's record to 14-3 while 224 MI Bn. falls to 12-7. The regular season concludes next week and will be followed by a post-season tournament beginning July 12.

Hunter Dodgers play ball, learn teamwork

Adrienne Stock
*Hunter Youth and Sports Fitness
Assistant*

The cheers and chants were deafening as 8-year-old Michael Bonnett, Jr. got up to bat at the Habersham YMCA sports field in Savannah, June 5. With one big swing and a strong "whack," the ball screamed toward the outfield. As Michael rounded second base, his teammates' cheers grew even louder. The outfielders finally made a defensive play as Michael made it safely to third.

It was the final game of the spring baseball season for the Hunter Dodgers, a Hunter Army Airfield little league team comprised of 7- and 8-year-old players. The single-elimination tournament concluded with the teams' advance to the

semi-finals.

Hunter youth, ages 5-18, compete seasonally with youth at the Habersham YMCA and the Jewish Educational Alliance in softball, soccer and basketball. They share a similar philosophy and goal, according to Adrienne Stock, Hunter Youth and Sports Fitness assistant and military spouse.

"Our focus is a lot like theirs," she said of the civilian organizations. "Like them, our primary interest is that kids develop character and to learn to work as a team toward a common goal."

Private First Class William Wooldridge, 416th Transportation Company, 260th Quartermaster Battalion, thought coaching at Hunter was worth the time it takes to instill values in the children he coaches.

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Eight-year-old Michael Bonnett, Jr. goes to bat for the Hunter Dodgers in Savannah at the Habersham YMCA. His team played the YMCA team June 5, which ended a single-elimination tournament that advanced the Dodgers to the semi-finals.

Soldiers win Armed Forces Taekwondo crowns, qualify for CISM Worlds

Tim Hipps
FMWRC Public Affairs

FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. – Six Soldiers won their divisions of the 2010 Armed Forces Taekwondo Championships on June 19 at Blue Mountain Sports Arena.

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program martial artists Staff Sgt. Gilbert Johnson, Sgt. William Rider, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Fennell, Capt. Alexander White and 1st Lt. Steven Ostrander won gold medals, along with All-Army Capt. Punnarin Koy, a Reservist from Minnesota. All of the WCAP fighters are stationed at Fort Carson, Colo.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Quinton Beach of Aviano Air Base, Italy, completes the U.S. squad that was selected to compete at the Conseil International du Sport Militaire's 19th World Military Taekwondo Championships, scheduled for July 14-21 at Royal Military College in St. Jean, Quebec, Canada.

At Fort Indiantown Gap, Fennell overcame recent hernia and groin surgery and scored two points in the third and final period of his 6-4 middleweight victory over Air Force Capt. Ascenzo Bonitati, a member of the 2008 CISM Armed Forces Team.

"That was one of the most highly

anticipated matches of the whole camp," said Army WCAP coach Sgt. 1st Class David Bartlett, who also will lead the U.S. CISM Team north of the border. "So we were able to get that spot back this year. That was a big upset – an impressive win on his part."

Staff Sergeant Fennell later prevailed with a three-point kick to the head with 30 seconds remaining against Army Pfc. Rodney "Hyper" Johnson of Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for a 5-3 victory in the lightweight division. Private First Class Johnson, who serves as an optician in San Antonio, is legally blind without glasses.

"He did a lot better than we all expected," said Sgt. 1st Class Bartlett, who added that Johnson got knocked out earlier in the week during practice.

Sergeant Rider was in control throughout his 8-1 featherweight victory over Airman 1st Class Chris Moore of Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

"He's on a hot streak right now and he knew that today was another steppingstone closer to trying to make that 2012 Olympic team," Sgt. 1st Class Bartlett said of Sgt. Rider, who recently won the 2010 Collegiate Nationals, the 2010 Collegiate World Team Trials and earned a spot on the 2010 Collegiate Pan Am Team.

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Garrison Golf Scramble fields 13 teams on hot summer day

Randy Murray
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

With temperatures pushing close to 100 degrees, 13 teams set out during the heat of the day on a shotgun start at Taylors Creek Golf Course for the Garrison Commander's Golf Scramble, June 25. Tommie McArthur, director of golf for Fort Stewart-Hunter

Army Airfield briefed the players about the day's scramble as well as safety factors, including drinking plenty of liquids and leaving the course at the first hint of a thunderstorm.

"If you hear thunder, it's time to come in," McArthur said, emphatically. "You don't need to wait for word from the clubhouse to come in."

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TAEKWONDO

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Tim Hipps

U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program martial artist Staff Sgt. Jonathan Fennell of Fort Carson, Colo., scores with a kick to the chest of Air Force Capt. Ascenzo Bonitati of Pensacola, Fla., en route to a 6-2 victory in the lightweight division of the 2010 Armed Forces Taekwondo Championships on June 19 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Captain White, who left the Air Force in 2003 and found a break between deployments to compete for the Army, built a 3-0 lead after two periods and held on for 5-2 victory over Air Force Sgt. Brian Biviano of Griffiss Air Force Base, N.Y., in the middleweight class.

Captain White later rallied from a 1-0 deficit for a 4-2 victory over Marine Corps Cpl. Michael King of Washington, D.C., to earn his first berth on the U.S. CISM team.

Captain Koy, a 43-year-old who has served 26 years in the military, defeated civilian Greg Gooden, 3-1, in a flyweight bout to make his first CISM squad.

"This was huge for him," Sgt. 1st Class Bartlett said of the oldest U.S. Soldier he recalls ever competing on the CISM level. "It is fun for him, and it is fun for us. He has good spirit. He has a lot to bring to the team, a lot of knowledge, and he's a hard worker. He cut like 10 or 15 pounds for this tournament."

Staff Sergeant Gilbert Johnson, 33, prevailed 7-2 in a finweight bout against civilian Gooden, who gameily filled spots that lacked military entries.

"Today was a big day for him," Sgt. 1st Class Bartlett said of Staff Sgt. Johnson. "It's taken him nine years just to get to the All-Army level and he made his first CISM team first time out so we expect good things."

Staff Sergeant Johnson, a natural 118-pound fighter, was a resident athlete at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., during the late 1990s.

In the heavyweight division, three-time national champion 1st Lt. Ostrander, 27, needed only one kick to knock out Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer William Nesbit, a 40-year-old from Port Hueneme, Calif.

"When it comes to the heavyweight division, at any time any kick can end a match quick, and that's

what happened today," Sgt. 1st Class Bartlett said. "The Navy guy was technically sound. He was a very courageous guy and took a chancy shot and got countered with a back kick.

"(First Lieutenant) Steven Ostrander came into this fight weighing 233 pounds and his opponent weighed in at 202. But he signed up for this camp and he knew what he was getting into. Being a service member, he did his duty. He went out there and put up a fight, but we were a little stronger today."

"I was more concerned with how he was," 1st Lt. Ostrander replied when asked if he knew how quickly he KO'd Nesbit. "He's OK. I just hit him in the collarbone and it kind of slid up and hit him in the neck. It was a powerful kick, but I didn't expect to hit him there. He kind of leaned back on it. I think it just hurt him and scared him at the same time."

Beach, a 2008 U.S. CISM team member, opened the program with a 6-4 welterweight victory over Spc. Gregory Shepherd, 22, an Army Reservist from Maryland. Biviano ended the show with a 5-1 victory over King for second place in the middleweight class.

Before heading to Canada, all of the competitors in the Armed Forces Championships are eligible to travel to Orlando for the 2010 U.S. National Taekwondo Championships on July 4.

"It's an Olympic qualifying year so it's very important that the guys place top four in the national championships," Sgt. 1st Class Bartlett said.

"The Olympic Trials are the ultimate goal, so it's a big deal," 1st Lt. Ostrander concurred.

The top two finishers in Orlando will automatically qualify for the Olympic Trials, Pan Am Trials and World Championship Trials.

DODGERS

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"It's important for children of deployed parents to have a good role model," he said, adding that they need special encouragement and understanding since they deal with long absences of a parent.

"They need a coach or someone else to look up to who will lead them from bad things to good. When they don't have positive role models, they can be lead down the wrong path."

After practices, Pfc. Wooldridge spoke with players about what they did well and what needed improvement. He assigned tasks to those who needed improvement and they paid off. For example, players who had a difficult time hitting the ball at the season's start improved greatly before it ended. Private First Class Wooldridge said for him, coaching has many rewards.

"My most memorable moment of the season was when the kids came together

as a team," he said.

"It's been a fantastic season," said JoDee Bonnett, mother of Michael Jr. and wife of Michael Bonnett Sr., 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, currently serving in Afghanistan.

"Having something for Michael (Jr.) to focus on while his father is deployed has really helped."

The team did not advance past semifinals, but according to Stock, kids' smiles were plastered on their faces throughout the season and all reported having fun.

"We are all aware of the scandals and allegations of celebrity role models from the media," said Stock. "But at Hunter, kids have found real role models in volunteers like Pfc. Wooldridge. He and other military volunteers understand the struggles and challenges of military kids the way nobody else can."

21st Combat Support Hospital
hosts 4- and 8-mile run, walk

Sgt. Jessica Rohr, 135th MPAD, 3rd ID Public Affairs

As part of the Task Force Marne Army Medical Department's 4- and 8-mile road race, runners cross the starting line at the 21st Combat Support Hospital on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, near Tikrit, Iraq, June 26.

TIME OUT! Soccer brings Soldiers, Speicher together

Commentary by Spc. Michael Adams
Task Force Marne Public Affairs

On the night of June 26, I was at the Main Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq. I watched the United States play against Ghana in the Round of 16 in the World Cup.

The atmosphere was something I had never seen before. Soldiers and civilians from many different nations around the world and all walks of life gathered to watch the game. There wasn't an empty seat. All of the TVs had people huddled around them. I have watched quite a few sporting events in my life, but I have never seen a group of people anywhere not at a stadium watching a game as intensely as they were this.

Fans were cheering the entire time. Except for halftime, almost nobody moved away from the TV. On a little outpost in the desert, the people there

created so much excitement and energy, it was contagious.

There were many Americans there, that naturally cheered for the U.S. team. I have casually paid attention to the World Cup since I first saw World Cup games in person in 1994, when the games came to America. Fans in the United States never quite seemed to like the World Cup the way other countries did.

This time it was different. There were Americans that were screaming and cheering for their team as much as Ghana fans were. Prior to this game, all over Task Force Marne, servicemembers were buzzing about the U.S. team, in the opening round.

To open the World Cup, the U.S.



played a big game against heavily favored England, which ended in a tie. Then they lost against Slovakia, in part, because of what many felt were bad calls against the U.S. Then they won a hard-fought game against Algeria, securing a spot in the

Round of 16.

People were sitting and waiting for the match to start close to an hour before the game began. It was a very intense, high-energy match, one of the best in the World Cup so far. But the U.S. team allowed a goal in the opening minutes, something they had done consistently over the last few years. Landon Donovan tied the game with a penalty kick against Ghana. But when the game

went to extra time, Ghana won, 2-1.

Many American fans, including myself, went home heartbroken that night.

The Americans played a great game, but overall Ghana played better defense and played a better all-around game.

Still, it was fun to be there with my fellow Soldiers and people from all over the world to watch two teams from opposite sides of the globe play against each other.

There is a saying soccer fans have: "Soccer isn't life and death; it is much more than that."

After that night, seeing people from almost every continent around the world watching that game, I have no doubt that's true.

That night I watched the America-Ghana game, to be one of many Soldiers and Americans to come together to cheer for our nation on the world stage. It is an experience I won't soon forget.

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The 13 teams consisting of men and women, active duty and retired Soldiers, and Army civilians, who braved the intense heat and played through 18 holes without interruption from the afternoon thunderstorms so common in South Georgia during the summer. In the end, the team from the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security took first place.

According to Jaime Deniziak, golf management trainee, the results for this month's Garrison Commander's Golf Scramble were as follows:

1st Place - 59

Sgt. 1st Class Alvin Thompson
Master Sgt. Steve Williams
Scott Armbrister

Sgt. 1st Class Willie Jones

2nd Place - 60

Sgt. Nick Almerico
Sgt. Tim Woodland
Pfc. Jeremy Hight
Sgt. Kyle McNair

3rd Place - 61

Col. Phil Patridge
Maj. Jeff Hambrice
Zach Hambrice
Col. Lemuel Covington

Longest Drive - Pfc. Jeremy Hight

Closest to the Pin - Zach Hambrice

The next Garrison Commander's Scrambles are scheduled for July 16 at Hunter Golf Club and July 30 at Taylors Creek Golf Course. These scrambles will be 4-person golf scrambles.

Randy Murray

Master Sergeant Steve Williams, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, tees off from hole #6 while teammates, Sgt. 1st Class Willie Jones, Sgt. 1st Class Alvin Thompson and Scott Armbrister (not shown) look on during the Garrison Commander's Golf Scramble at Taylor's Creek Golf Course, June 25.

